Message Text

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E.O. 11652: XGDS-1 TAGS: PARM

SUBJ: COMMENTS ON MEETING, JUNE 14, 1977 (SALT TWO - 1220)

- 1. AT PLENARY MEETING JUNE 14, MY STATEMENT (SEPTEL) SET FORTH U.S. POSITION RE DUAL-CAPABLE LAUNCHERS AND ADDRESSED SERIOUS PROBLEM POSED BY EXISTENCE OF LAUNCHER IN USSR WHICH U.S. BELIEVES IS CAPABLE OF LAUNCHING BOTH SS-20 AND SS-16. I STATED THAT U.S. BELIEVES ALL SUCH LAUNCHERS SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN 2400 AGGREGATE LIMIT BUT NOTED OUR WILLINGNESS TO CONSIDER ANY VERIFIABLE ARRANGEMENTS SOVIETS MIGHT PROPOSE TO SATISFY U.S. CONCERNS.
- 2. SEMENOV DELIVERED STATEMENT ON HEAVY BOMBER DEFINITION (SEPTEL). HE NOTED THERE ARE TWO POINTS OF ARTICLE II.3 ON WHICH AGREEMENT EXISTS: NAMING OF CURRENT HEAVY BOMBERS (EXCEPT FOR BACKFIRE) AND CONSULTATIONS ON INCLUSION OF AIRCRAFT AS HEAVY BOMBERS IN FUTURE. ALTHOUGH MOST OF STATEMENT CONCERNED POINTS IN ARTICLE II.3 ON WHICH DIFFERENCES EXIST, AND CONSISTED OF STRONG STATEMENT OF SOVIET POSITIONS AND CRITICISM OF U.S. POSITIONS, SEMENOV ALSO PRESENTED SOVIET UNDERSTANDING OF "CHARACTERISTICS" AS USED IN ARTICLE II.3 AS COMBAT RADIUS OF AN AIRCRAFT, WITHOUT IN-FLIGHT REFUELING, WHEN LOADED WITH BOMBS OR ASMS FOR ONE OPERATIONAL MISSION. HE ALSO SAID DRAFTING WORKING GROUP COULD GO TO WORK ON ARTICLE II.3. HE ATTACKED U.S. POSITION ON SECRET

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"HOWEVER CONFIGURED" AS VIOLATION OF VLADIVOSTOK UNDERSTANDING AND ATTEMPT TO GAIN UNILATERAL ADVANTAGE AND CALLED IDEA OF CONVERSION "IRRATIONAL" SINCE IT WOULD INVOLVE GIVING UP TANKER, RECCE, AND ASW AIRCRAFT. HE NOTED THAT SOVIET SIDE HAD TWO PROPOSALS ON TABLE, CONCERNING OBLIGATION NOT TO CONVERT AND ESTABLISHMENT OF EQUAL AGGREGATE LIMITS ON TANKER, RECCE, AND ASW AIRCRAFT, AND IN EFFECT TABLED A THIRD, STATING THAT SOVIET

SIDE EXPECTS U.S. DELEGATION TO RECIPROCATE STATEMENT OF INTENT NOT TO CONVERT "VARIANTS."

- 3. AS PRELIMINARY REACTION I COMMENTED THAT HIS DESCRIPTION OF "CHARACTERISTICS" SEEMED TO CONTAIN THE SORT OF OBJECTIVE STANDARDS NEEDED FOR FUTURE DESIGNATION OF HEAVY BOMBERS AND IT IMPLIED THAT APPROPRIATE FACTUAL INFORMATION WILL BE AVAILABLE WHEN NEEDED. I ADDED THAT IT WAS THE LACK OF OBJECTIVE INFORMATION OF THIS NATURE WHICH GAVE RISE TO U.S. CONCERNS WITH RESPECT TO BOMBER VARIANTS.
- 4. IN BILATERAL SEMENOV STRESSED, IN SOMEWHAT POLEMICAL FASHION, IMPORTANCE OF HIS STATEMENT IN PLENARY AND I DEFENDED U.S. APPROACH. OTHER BILATERALS FOLLOWED SIMILAR LINE.
- 5. JOURAVLEV TOLD LTC JOHNSON THAT SS-16 AND SS-20 EACH HAD ITS OWN MOBILE LAUNCHER, AND INDICATED THAT NEITHER COULD BE USED TO LAUNCH THE OTHER MISSILE.
- 5. NEXT PLENARY MEETING FRIDAY, JUNE 17.EARLE

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